



Life Course

Negative Outcome

Brief Name

General Poor Mental Health
(Youth)

Indicator

Percent of youth with poor mental health.

Description

This is a proxy metric for poor mental health or depression found in the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). This question asks youth, "*During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?*"

WI	US	Best	Worst
24.6%*	29.9%	19.5%	36.4%
		NE	AZ

Year

2013

Numerator

Number of students reporting "Yes"

Denominator

High school youth (all grades)

*Indicates statistically significant difference from the US value at $p < 0.05$.

Importance

Self-reported feelings of sadness and hopelessness is a straight-forward indication of how youth in Wisconsin are fairing.

Limitations

This is not a diagnostic tool for depression, simply one metric that may indicate presence of the disease.

The following states are not included in the comparison: MN, AZ, CA, CO, IN, IA, MO, PA.

Source

YRBS, Wisconsin 2013. Data from the CDC YRBS Youth Online, accessed at <https://nccd.cdc.gov/youthonline/App/Default.aspx>.